

NEWS RELEASE

Potato Stocks
May 14, 2004

MAY 1 POTATO STOCKS

North Dakota

Stocks of potatoes totaled 8.30 million hundredweight (cwt) on May 1, 2004, in North Dakota's growers, dealers and processors storage facilities, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Stocks are up 51 percent from last year and 20 percent from the May 1, 2002 estimate. Current stocks represent 30 percent of the production, up from 23 percent last year and 26 percent two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest totaled 19.1 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Disappearance during April totaled 2.90 million cwt, above last April's disappearance of 2.40 million cwt and below 3.50 million cwt two years ago. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.

United States

The 15 major potato States held 84.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2004, up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 21 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, 1 percent above last year. Disappearance of 319 million cwt of potatoes is down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Processors in the 9 major States used 154 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 34.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 4 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and May 1 Stocks

State	Crop of 2002		Crop of 2003	
	Production	Stocks May 1, 2003	Production	Stocks May 1, 2004
	-- 1,000 Cwt --		-- 1,000 Cwt --	
NORTH DAKOTA	23,460	5,500	27,440	8,300
California	4,316	1,000	3,444	1,200
Colorado	27,885	5,800	23,652	3,600
Idaho	133,385	34,500	123,180	33,500
Maine	16,960	3,900	17,030	4,100
Michigan	13,878	1,000	15,015	1,600
Minnesota	18,810	4,300	22,330	5,500
Montana	3,224	400	3,339	500
Nebraska	8,611	^{1/}	9,860	^{1/}
New York	5,500	^{1/}	6,510	450
Ohio	902	^{1/}	1,290	^{1/}
Oregon	24,936	5,000	20,991	5,500
Pennsylvania	2,128	^{1/}	3,915	100
Washington	92,340	16,500	93,150	15,000
Wisconsin	30,750	3,700	32,800	3,800
Other States		1,340		1,650
15 State Total	407,085	82,940	403,946	84,800

^{1/} Combined into Other States.

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